



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PORT ARTHUR RESIDENTS ARRESTED FOR FIREARMS VIOLATIONS

(Beaumont, TX) Today, the United States Attorney's Office, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the Port Arthur Police Department announced the arrests of eight targeted offenders who have been accused of committing weapons and drug crimes in the Eastern District of Texas. All eight defendants were in federal court today for initial appearances.

The following Port Arthur residents have been charged with federal firearms violations:

Bobby D. Hemmingway, 37; Lionel Ivory, Jr., 19; Leriell Rogeau, 26; Quincy James Alpough, 24; Joseph Bob Broussard, 18; Michael Buchanan, 25; Byron Keeling Clark, Jr., 28; and Pedro Pablo Sanchez-Gomez, 19. Clark has also been charged with Possession of Crack Cocaine.

Matthew D. Orwig, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas said, "These arrests and indictments underscore the critical importance of combining local and federal law enforcement resources for the purpose of combating illegal guns and violence in our communities."

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These cases are being prosecuted under the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) initiative in conjunction with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives' Violent Crime Impact Teams (VCIT) initiative. PSN is a comprehensive, strategic approach to gun law enforcement that targets gun crime and violent offenders in an effort to make our communities safer. Combined with the VCIT, PSN seeks to decrease both the number of violent crimes as well as the number of firearms crimes through the removal of violent offenders from our communities. Over the past four years, federal gun crime prosecutions have increased by 76%. Here in the Eastern District of Texas, gun crime prosecutions are up an even more impressive 93%.

Orwig also said, "This is the time of year when our children return to school armed with a sense of adventure and a keen desire to learn. Ironically, many of them return to schools in neighborhoods that suffer from the twin scourges of drug dealing and gun violence. This particular initiative, designed to target violent offenders residing in the city of Port Arthur, is yet another salvo in the continuing battle to secure and safeguard our neighborhoods for those same precious children. We will continue to flush out those responsible for the spread of violence in our communities and seek lengthy prison sentences for each convicted violator."

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If convicted, the defendants face up to ten years in prison for the firearms violations.

It is important to remember that a Grand Jury indictment is not evidence of guilt. All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

These cases are being prosecuted by a select team of Assistant U.S. Attorneys, Michelle Englade, David H. Henderson, Randall L. Fluke, and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Sarah Wannarka.

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